



2021

Parks and Recreation **Annual Report**



City of
Golden
PARKS AND RECREATION

National Gold Medal Winner





City of
Golden
PARKS AND RECREATION

Parks and Recreation Department Staff

Rod Tarullo, Director of Parks,
Recreation and Golf

Stacy Turner, Parks and Recreation
Executive Assistant/Department Liaison

Becky Richmond, Recreation Manager

Chad Meinert, Parks, Cemetery and
Forestry Manager

Keith Isenberger, Facilities Manager

Noy Sparks, Golf Course Superintendent -
Fossil Trace Golf Club

Jim Hajek, PGA Head Golf Professional -
Fossil Trace Golf Club

Nathan Richie, Manager –
Golden History Museum & Park

Department Overview

Mission Statement:

To promote and provide safe and comprehensive community facilities, programs and services that will enrich the quality of life for all residents and visitors.

Vision Statement:

Golden will be recognized as a national leader in the provision of high-quality parks, trails and recreation facilities.

Department Summary:

Parks and recreation facilities and the programs, activities, and services that occur within them, contribute greatly to the overall quality of life in Golden. The award-winning Golden Parks and Recreation Department is responsible for maintaining open spaces, for providing a quality system of parks and recreational facilities and for providing positive leisure opportunities for the community. Golden is home to many unique recreational amenities for a town of its size including 254 acres of parkland, 402 acres of open space, 25 miles of trails, 10,000 trees, Fossil Trace Golf Club, Splash Aquatic Park, Golden History Museums and the Golden Community Center. The Parks and Recreation Department includes the Municipal Facilities Division, Recreation Division, Parks, Forestry, and Cemetery Division, Golden Museums Division, Golf Maintenance Division and Golf Clubhouse Division.



2010 Gold Medal Award
Recipient, Class V,
Population 25,000 and below



Three-time CAPRA
Accredited Agency
since 2009

Advisory Board

Parks, Recreation and Museums Advisory Board

In order to increase community involvement, a Parks, Recreation and Museums Advisory Board (PRAM) was created in 1982. Board members are appointed by City Council and represent Golden citizens. PRAM consists of seven members and one alternate which serve four-year terms, makes suggestions about policies and procedures, fees and charges, acceptance of park land, design of parks, and other projects relating to the Parks and Recreation Department.

PRAM meets on the first and third Thursday evening of each month. The third Thursday is the regular meeting date. These meetings take place at City Hall in Council Chambers, 911 10th Street, Golden, Colorado, 80401, at 7 p.m. For more information and to view meeting minutes or listen to audio of the minutes, visit www.cityofgolden.net/agendas.

Mission Statement & Purpose of PRAM

Golden's nationally-recognized parks and recreation system continues to contribute to healthy, active resident lifestyles. PRAM's mission is to advise City Council and assist staff in their goals to promote and provide safe and comprehensive community facilities, programs and services to enrich the quality of life for all residents, visitors and future generations.



City of
Golden
PARKS AND RECREATION

2021 Parks, Recreation and Museums Advisory Board

Craig Middleton (Chair)

Amirah Shahid (Vice-Chair)

Clare Cragen

Pete Erslev

Kermit Shields

Cynthia Szymanski

Jackie Winterbottom

Michele Minihane - Alternate



Parks & Recreation FACTS



10,000 TREES
Maintained in the Community



25 MILES
of Trails to Encourage Healthy Lifestyles



402 ACRES
of Open Space to Provide Recreational Areas



254 ACRES
of Parkland for Community Members



14 ACRES
of Parkland per 1,000 People, exceeding
the Gold Medal Community Standard



204 PART-TIME & 45 FULL-TIME
Staff Members in the Parks & Recreation Department

Parks & Recreation AWARDS



TREE CITY USA®
32 Consecutive **YEARS**



FOSSIL TRACE
Golf Magazine
25 Underrated Municipal
Golf Courses



Fossil Trace Golf Club

Golden History Museum & Park Improvements

Golden History Museum & Park (GHM&P) made many facility and exhibit improvements in 2021. In the History Park, the 1870s Reynolds and Pearce cabins were reroofed with fire resistant cedar shakes. The previous roofs were installed when the cabins were located to the Park in the 1990s and were in poor condition. The work was completed by noted Colorado preservationist, William Granda, following the Secretary of Interior's Standards for Historic Preservation.

Two new interpretive exhibits were added in 2021 to help visitors to the GHM&P understand the region's rich agricultural heritage.

Heritage Apple Orchard: In collaboration with the City's Parks and Forestry Divisions, Golden History Museum planted a new apple orchard in front of the Guy Hill School House. The Parks department amended soils, installed drip irrigation, and planted the seedlings. GHM&P partnered with the Montezuma Orchard Restoration Project to select varieties of heirloom apples that were once common in the Golden area.

Ornamental Rose Garden: Near the Pearce Cabin in the center of the park, GHM&P installed an ornamental rose garden. The roses were moved from the GHM&P grounds and spent the winter at the Golden Cemetery while a new garden bed was constructed. Parks department staff provided irrigation and planted the roses, and the Golden Lions Club donated materials and built the picket fence. Both additions will help visitors

Finally, GHM&P added a new, expanded, and accessible creekside patio in 2021. The patio will allow for more outdoor, socially distanced gatherings. It also provides a grand new staircase to the museum entrance, as well as, an ADA accessible ramp.



Heritage Apple Orchard



GHM&P patio

Clear Creek Ambassador Program



Clear Creek Ambassador

After years of continued growth in activity along the Clear Creek corridor, the City Manager created a working group comprised of a variety of stakeholders. They met regularly to discuss issues, challenges,

and potential strategies, to manage user impacts and improve overall conditions for outdoor enthusiasts. One strategy included an education campaign.

In May of 2021, Parks and Recreation staff were tasked with developing the Clear Creek Ambassador Program to better inform, educate, and establish new cultural norms around the Corridor. In late June, four ambassadors successfully carried out the mission to assist visitors with directions, information about Golden, creek education and friendly rule reminders. The four ambassadors worked Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays and stationed at the Billy Drew Bridge and beach area.

OUTCOMES INCLUDED:

- Coordinated efforts with park rangers on training and communication.
- Printed bilingual park rules rack cards.
- Collaborated with park rangers to provide friendly park rules enforcement.
- Promoted parks stewardship amongst trail users and tubers.
- Support the Parks Division on maintenance needs.
- Collaborated with the Golden Visitor's Center to promote City events and opportunities in the downtown area.

Ambassadors worked collaboratively with park rangers and the Golden Visitors Center. The program is expected to continue in 2022.



Rebound of Recreation Through COVID

In 2021, the Recreation Division focused on pandemic recovery, with staff finding new ways of conducting business to attract a diverse community with different needs. While some programs and services were able to return to pre-pandemic operations, other areas were modified to address staffing shortages or work with public health compliance as it evolved. Some programs were noticeably impacted by change, such as aquatics, while other areas hit record high numbers, like golf.

Annual passes returned, providing convenience and savings for Golden Community Center (GCC) guests. For the first time, annual passes can be purchased online, expanding the use of technology to provide efficient access for guests and staff. With a change in public health requirements, reservations for weight room and gymnasium visits were removed and the hours of operation were expanded.

Aquatics and The Splash

While all divisions experienced seasonal staff recruitment challenges, swimming pool operations were impacted the most. Lifeguard certifications, commonly obtained by teenagers, were challenging. The certification requires 29 hours of training. Full-time aquatics staff trained and hired more than 40 new lifeguards in advance of the summer 2021 season - nearly double a pre-pandemic year. Despite these recruiting efforts, only half of the lifeguarding positions required full summer operations at both the Splash and GCC were filled. Even though the Splash and GCC experienced staff shortages, Golden residents and visitors had swimming opportunities throughout the summer at both locations and exceeded safety standards. With many teenagers returning to their high school schedules in the fall, indoor swimming time remained restricted and included a reservation system. Swimming pool access continues to expand moving into 2022. The GCC resumed limited early morning lap swimming hours with the daily lap swim schedule. Water exercise classes were full and popular as ever, while private and semi-private swim lessons also returned.



The Splash Aquatic Park at Fossil Trace



Front Porch at the GCC

Golden Community Center Front Porch

The reopening of the GCC's Front Porch was highly anticipated and once again offered a broad spectrum of opportunities in a safe environment for active adults. Mah Jongg lessons for beginners remained very popular, only limited by the number of students the volunteer instructor could teach. On any given day, the Front Porch saw individuals playing cards or billiards, enjoying coffee and conversation, working on jigsaw puzzles, meeting for book club, sewing and knitting, having monthly birthday celebrations and many other activities all in a Covid-safe environment. The Front Porch calendar was updated monthly and contained a full slate of classes and activities for active older adults. New programs will continue to be added regularly including group exercise classes, games, and enrichment programs. An updated calendar of activities can still be found in the Front Porch, the *Golden Informer*, GCC monthly e-newsletter, and online.

Golden Community Center Licensed Child Care Program

The Golden Community Center licensed child care programs expanded to provide additional quality child care opportunities to meet community need. Expansion efforts were supported with grant funds to help hire and retain quality instructors and purchase supplies.



Child care Program at the GCC

Popularity of Pickleball

Pickleball remained as popular as ever with high demand for more space and time for the sport. The Department allocated resources and maneuvered public health orders to create additional indoor open pickleball during the winter of 2021 at the Tony Grampsas Gymnasium. This helped to satiate the need until spring weather provided outdoor opportunities for play once again. The Parks Division overlaid two additional courts at Lion's Park, totaling six outdoor courts. The Recreation Division hired a new part-time Pickleball Instructor and will offer beginner classes, boot camps and other programming to expand pickleball opportunities for residents and guests.



Golden History Museum & Park



Pickleball at the GCC

The evolution in recreation will continue through 2022 as staff navigates public health orders to develop new innovations with focus on inclusion and equity for programs and services.



A Peek into 2022 from the Parks Side

Big things started in 2021 for the City of Golden's Park system. Below are just a few teasers of what to expect in the coming year.

DELONG GRAND OPENING

After a delay in construction of DeLong Park in 2020, contractors broke ground in June 2021. As of November 2021, the Park was 85% complete. Due to supply chain issues, contractors are still waiting on the delivery of a few amenities. Once received, the installation process will begin and a grand opening is expected in the first half of 2022.

OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN KICK OFF

Parks, Recreation and Museum's Advisory Board members and staff interviewed consulting firms and kicked off the project in September. Public meetings will occur in 2022. The final document will include the development of a definition of open space which will serve as the framework for making policy, administration, and management decisions.

LUBAHN TRAIL PARTNERSHIP GRANT

For several years the Parks, Recreation and Museum's Advisory Board has deliberated management and sustainability of the trail. In December, the Parks and Recreation Department was awarded \$87,500 through the Jefferson County Open Space Trails Partnership Grant to help fund improvements. The project will formalize and construction will begin in Q1 of 2022.

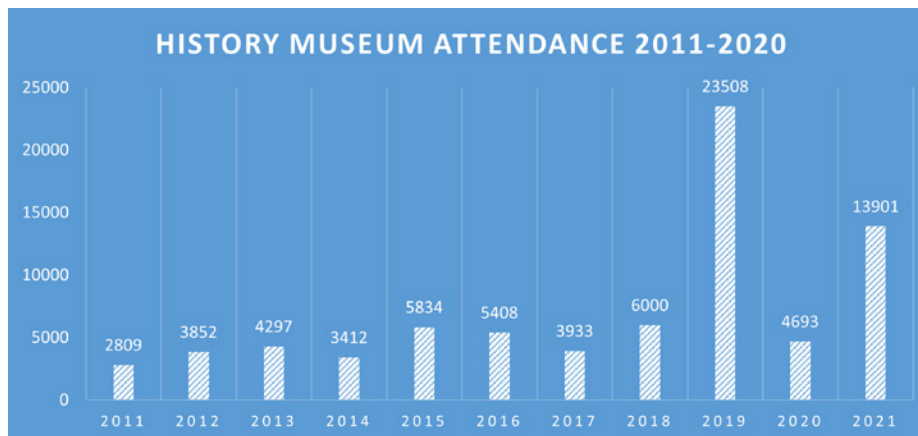
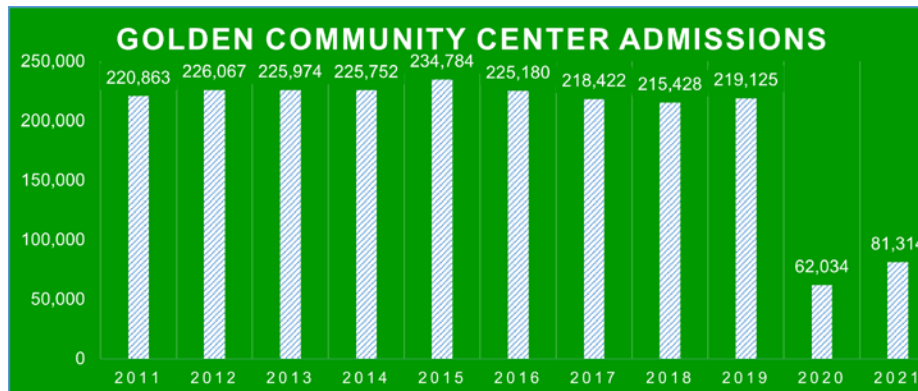
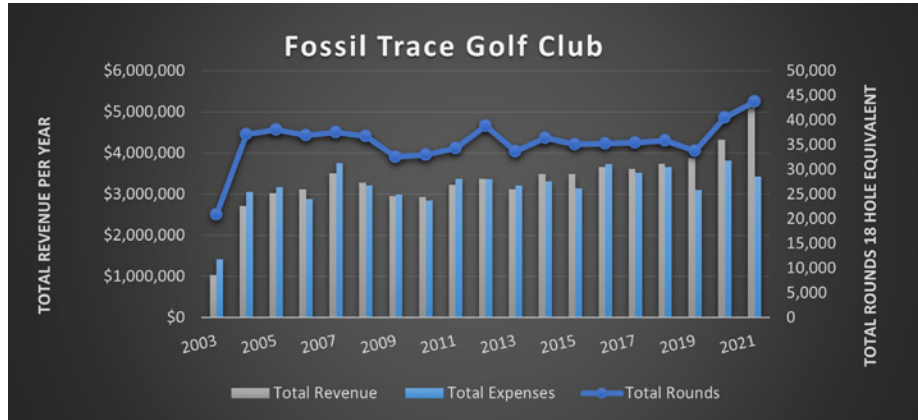


DeLong Park



Lubahn Trail - water bar

Parks & Recreation BY THE NUMBERS



2021 Highlights

RECREATION

- **Incrementally expanded GCC programs and services** throughout 2021 to return to pre-pandemic levels, including the return of Child Watch services and the Front Porch activities.
- **Removed reservation requirements** from general drop-in fitness and gymnasium use.
- Added an extra room for the Golden Community Center Preschool and **increased capacity from 63 to 80** to offer expanded childcare opportunities.
- **The GCC licensed child care program received a Child Care Relief Grant of \$14,850.** The grant money is intended to offset operating expenses for the smaller group sizes, additional safety measures and disinfection supplies needed to operate during COVID.
- **The GCC licensed child care program was awarded \$30,044 from the Emerging and Expanding Child Care Grant program.** This funding supported expanded capacity during the pandemic, addressing quality child care shortages and was used to cover the cost of materials, supplies, professional development for educators and other program needs.
- **Julie Adkins**, Preschool Director, received the **PLAY Professional of the Year award** as voted on by her peers in the Colorado Parks & Recreation Association.



Front Porch socializing



Preschool fun

2021 Highlights

PARKS

- **Planted over 6,000 bulbs** in downtown Golden and the parks.
- **Enhanced Clear Creek corridor** and **addressed safety measures** along the bank.
 - Stabilized the creek bank near the Clear Creek RV park
 - Addressed bank safety and kayak features near Parfet Park
 - Added a stone retaining wall along the Clear Creek RV Park on the south side, addressing safety concerns
 - Installed tuber access just west the 6th Ave pedestrian bridge
- **Conducted Pride Days** in the fall - **serving about 1,000 residents.**
- **Reduced all park irrigation water consumption by over 20%.**



Spring bulbs in city park

FORESTRY

- **Enhanced City tree canopy** by planting **158 trees** in 2021.
- Conducted **significant tree hazard mitigation** along street right of ways, parks and the Golden Cemetery.

CEMETERY

- **Experienced record-setting revenues.** On track to outpace 2020, improving cost recovery.
- Conducted **record number of burials (243 in)** 2021.



Pride Days

2021 Highlights

GOLDEN HISTORY MUSEUM & PARK

- Introduced **Autumn Fest** as a new family community event which drew **approximately 1,800-2,000 guests** with more than a dozen partners.
- Hosted the annual **Volunteer Appreciation Dinner** to celebrate **1,484 hours**, representing **\$42,354 of contributed time** in 2021. (*Current estimated national value of volunteer hourly wage is \$28.54 as calculated by [IndependentSector.org](https://www.independentsector.org/)*)
- Began leading important new initiatives such as the **American Indian Ethnography Project**.
- **Built and strengthened revenue sources**; sought and obtained grant funds to offset losses due to COVID including:
 - Increased SCFD funding by nearly 100%
 - Awarded \$20,000 National Endowment for Humanities grant
 - Grant funds from SIPA (\$3,000), the Applewood Community Foundation, and Golden Civic Foundation



Golden History Museum & Park Donors

JANUARY – DECEMBER 2021

\$10,000+

Dale and Linda Baker
City of Golden

Scientific and Cultural Facilities District
Pat Spieles

\$1,000 – \$9,999

The Denver Foundation, Greenwood Fund

Downtown Development Authority

Golden Kids Dental and Orthodontics

Kathleen Weller Horky and Kevin Horky

Mark and Nancy Foster

Golden Civic Foundation

Connie Hauver

McKee Family Foundation

John and Andi Pearson

Elaine and Joseph Marolla

Danielle and Louis Samuels

Lynette and Jeffrey Vann

Justin and Sarah Wade

\$500 – \$999

Richard and Cynthia Bauman
Sharon and Robert Kirts

Jennie and Charles Boeder
Pat and Judy Madison

Justin LeVett Photography
Jean Theobald

\$100 – \$499

Lydia Andrews

Jones and Jason Matisheck

Michelle Barnes and Rick Taylor

James and Joy Bauman

Bill and Carol Bleau

Shelly and Nick Bleckley

Betty Bloom

Sarah and Joe Brenkert

Gerald E. Brown

John and Kathe Buhr

Nancy and Dick Bureson

Linda Churches

Thomas and Julie Clark

Jim and LouAnne Dale

Jim and Odile De La Beaujardiere

Ingrid Depta

Pat Donahue and Kevin Skeate

Kathleen Doyle

Ted and Paula Dreith

Edward Jones

Ewers Architecture

Sheryl and Steve Fassino

Katherine and Garrett Fleming

Kristine and Kevin Fletcher

Richard Flint

Larry and Barbara Foos

Norma Fricke

Dorothy and Michael Gleason

Betty and Thomas Gleaton

Wendy and Rick Goad

Martha Gould

Gene Gray

George Griffin

Elnore and Ron Grow

Lynne Haigh

Paul and Vivian Haseman

Margaret B. Henderson

Steve Hughes and Sue Cornish

Frank and Gaye Jacobs

Joyce Jennings and William Cox

Janet Johnson

Paul and Karen Jones

Rachael Kenney-Reid

John and Karen Lynch

Esther and Don Macalady

Mary Anna and Walter Madden

Helen McVey

Tara Meininger

Meyer Hardware

George Meyers and Merrill Wilson

George and Susan Mitchell

Jan Monnier and Mike Fehn

Geraldine and Mel Moore

William and Jean Parfet

Wendy Potthoff

2021 Highlights

FOSSIL TRACE GOLF CLUB

- **Set new revenue records** in green fees, carts, range, merchandise, and lessons are part of the COVID boom and aftermath as the country opened up.
- Experienced a wetter than normal spring which allowed staff to avoid significant irrigation cycles and promoted water conservation. Overall City water consumption was down by 8% while **golf water consumption was down over 20%**. As water supply is limited, this conservation was met with positive accolades within the City of Golden.



FACILITIES MAINTENANCE

- **Replaced all fluorescent light fixtures with LED's** in City Hall, including Council Chambers, and the 1250 Jackson Street parking structure.
- **Performed 1,912 total work orders** in 2021.
- Performed **major improvements and repairs at The Splash**.
- Made **improvements to the Clear Creek RV Park**.

